

# NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF  
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**CHAFING IN INFANTS.**—The *Philadelphia Medical Journal*, which has recently been incorporated with the *New York Medical Journal*, quoting from a foreign exchange, says: "Ostrovski employed tannoform as a local application in fifty cases of intertrigo in infants. The application was made either in the form of a powder with equal parts of starch or a ten per cent. vaseline ointment. The application was preceded by a wash with a two per cent. solution of boric acid. The results obtained in all cases were exceptionally good, and the author feels justified in recommending this drug very highly."

**TENT LIFE FOR CONSUMPTIVES.**—Dr. J. Edward Stubbett in an article on this subject in the *Medical Record* strongly advocates sleeping in the open air for the relief and cure of consumption. Patients who are obliged to remain in cities, he says, should sleep on the roofs of their houses when this is practicable, or at least in the open air. Some slight protection is necessary only in case of rain. Heavy dew is not objectionable.

He advises tent life wherever possible. Rugs may be admitted if they are exposed to sun and air every day, but draperies should be avoided. The tent should be pitched on the edge of a wood for protection from wind and shade from heat, but not in the wood, to permit the free circulation of air. A substantial tent may be occupied with benefit in winter even in a cold climate. A warm place to dress in is desirable. Two tent colonies are to be established at Liberty, N. Y. In one the cost will not exceed ten dollars a week.

**INUNCTION WITH COD-LIVER OIL.**—E. J. Kemp reports in the *Medical Standard* a case of a girl suffering from spontaneous dislocation of both knees who was pale, emaciated, weak, and loose-jointed, with a slight hacking cough and exaggerated respiratory murmur over both lungs. The family history was tuberculous. After six-months' treatment with general massage and inunction with cod-liver and olive-oil the patient recovered perfectly. Another case of acute tuberculosis recovered under the same treatment, as did a third, a girl suffering from hystero-epileptic attacks following several bites by a dog.

**IGNITION OF ETHER VAPOR.**—D. H. Murray reports in the *New York Medical Journal* the ignition of ether during an operation when the electric light was turned on to permit the person who was giving the ether to see the patient's eyes more clearly. Fortunately, no one was seriously burned. He advises care in using electric light, particularly in a small room where the ether vapor is dense.

**IGNITION VACUUM BOTTLE.**—Dr. Karl Connell, house physician at the New York Hospital, describes in the *Medical Record* a very simple apparatus for aspi-

rating. An ordinary five-pint bottle of about one-inch mouth is chosen and fitted with a perforated rubber stopper, to which is attached two or three feet of firm rubber tubing clamped by a hemostatic forceps or other device. Three drams of ninety-five per cent. alcohol is poured into the bottle, which is then turned until the entire inside is coated; the excess of alcohol is then poured off. The bottle is placed upright and a lighted match applied before the alcohol has time to dry or settle. A sheet of flame descends into the bottle, and as it touches the bottom the bottle is quickly corked. This will aspirate sixty to sixty-eight ounces. The temperature of the bottle when the alcohol is poured in should be from 60° to 110°. Below 60° the alcohol will not ignite; above 110° it takes place so rapidly as possibly to be dangerous if the bottle is weak or has a narrow neck. With fifty per cent. alcohol or whiskey the temperature must be at least 85° F. or it will not ignite. The same bottle has been used over a thousand times by the inventor without accident. The apparatus can be obtained at any village drug store for fifty cents, exclusive of the clamp.

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**TREATMENT OF WHOOPING-COUGH.**—In an article in the *Archives of Pediatrics* Sobel describes his experience with Naegeli's method of overcoming the distressing paroxysms of whooping-cough.

The lower jaw is pulled downward and forward.

In cases without a whoop the expiratory spasm with its asphyxia is generally overcome, and in those with a whoop it is prevented. The oncoming attacks, especially at night, may be arrested. The manipulation is easy, painless, and harmless, without any of the ill-effects of drugs. Patients treated in this manner are less likely to suffer from complications and sequelæ than those treated only medicinally; they are in far better condition, less exhausted and emaciated, because vomiting has been controlled. It may be tried in other spasmodic coughs and laryngeal spasms.

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**STERILIZING CATHETERS BY BOILING.**—In the *Journal of the Michigan State Medical Association* C. B. Nanerode and W. B. Hutchings decide from experiments that catheters can be sterilized by boiling if all air is expelled from the interior. The soft French catheter should not be so treated. Other catheters should first be well washed in warm soapsuds and then boiled for ten minutes.

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**RADIUM RAYS FOR CANCER.**—The *Medical Record* publishes the following account of the relief of cancer by means of the rays from the new metal, radium: "At a recent meeting of the Medical Section of the Royal Imperial Academy of Science in Vienna a paper was read giving the details of cure of a case of cancer of the hard palate and pharynx by means of radium rays. The patient, who was treated at the university clinic of the late Professor Gussenbauer, was a man sixty-one years of age. He had long suffered from cancer of the palate and lip, and had repeatedly been operated upon, but without success, the disease returning, and each time demanding a more extensive operation for its removal. Finally, in the autumn of 1902, the surgeons of the Allgemeines Krankenhaus declared it was absolutely useless to operate again. One physician determined as a last resort to try radium rays, and treated the afflicted parts by exposing them to the light of radium bromide, the strongest radium preparation in existence. (Another journal states that only one-sixth of a grain of the salt was used.) He was rewarded by a gradual and complete disappearance of the growth,

which has not returned, now some eight months after the beginning of treatment. At the same meeting a case of melanosarcoma cured by radium rays was reported."

**TREATMENT OF BALDNESS.**—Albert Bernheim in *American Medicine* propounds a theory that baldness is infectious and contagious, and thinks that it can be prevented. He believes that it can be cured in a large number of persons under fifty and advises that a cure be tried even over that age. The exclusion of light and air from the hair has much to do with the affection. The three requisites in the treatment are time, patience, and tar soap. The soap is made of forty parts beechwood tar to sixty parts of soap mixture. With this the scalp should be shampooed every day for eight weeks at least, then every other or every third day for another four to eight weeks. It must be done thoroughly and the hair patted, not rubbed, dry. The scalp should then be rubbed with a wash consisting of mercuric chloride 1 to 300, glycerine and cologne spirits each 100. Soft woollen cloth to be used for the rubbing. Then the skin is rubbed dry for another five minutes with a solution of beta naphthol 1 and absolute alcohol 200. After this the following prescription is freely used: Salicylic acid, 2; tincture benzoin, 3; neatsfoot oil, 100.

**PAINFUL FEET IN NURSES.**—The *New York Medical Journal* quotes the following from *American Medicine*: "Lovett, from the study of a series of five hundred observations upon both normal and disabled feet, draws the following conclusions: (1) It has not been possible to tell with any certainty by examination whether or not the feet of an individual are likely to give trouble. A foot with a well-distributed pressure area is rather less likely to give trouble than one resting on two islands. The degree of pronation, the condition of the circulation, the relative weight of the nurse, and the dorsal flexibility of the foot were all data of no value to the author in his attempt to make a prognosis. A flat foot may be perfectly serviceable, as may also a severely pronated one, while an apparently well-balanced one may become painful. (2) The factors that caused the nurses' trouble with their feet had their origin more in the nurses' general condition than in the shape of their feet. (3) The trouble was caused by a rolling in of the foot and a shifting inward of its weight-bearing areas, and not, in any case observed, by the breaking down or even lowering of the arch. (4) Although proof by figures is lacking, it is probable that the amount of trouble has been decidedly less than it would have been without a proper boot."

**FEEDING OF OLDER INFANTS.**—W. M. Hartshorn in the *Medical Record* records a departure in infant feeding at the Nursery and Child's Hospital, New York, which will be of interest to nurses. All infants over seven months old were given stronger food than plain milk, especially stale bread soaked in boiling water until thoroughly softened, the water poured off and a cup of milk added, and the mixture boiled for three or four minutes, cooled, sweetened, and fed to the baby. At first one teaspoonful was given once a day, and the amount gradually increased until in ten days one to three ounces daily were given. It was fed between the bottle hours and never more than half an ounce at a time. If curds appeared in the stools or it disagreed in any way it was discontinued and castor-oil or calomel given. This is a return to the pap of earlier times. Children from eighteen months to four years had plain bread and milk once a day. For breakfast farina

and milk, for dinner boiled rice with meat-broth over it, for supper bread and milk, the older children bread spread with plain jelly. During the fruit season these have an orange at noon. Since giving the extra food to the infants and younger children there has been a marked increase in their weight.

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VEGETARIAN DIET IN GYNÆCOLOGY.—The *Journal of the American Medical Association* makes the following abstract of an article in one of its German exchanges: "Theilhaber attributes many of the ills that female flesh is heir to, especially in the well-to-do classes, to overeating. He recommends a varied vegetarian diet, that is, excluding all parts of the dead animal, but allowing milk, eggs, etc., as products of the living animal. His experience includes three hundred cases, but only two hundred carried out his instructions for six months, at least, as directed. He has found this diet very valuable in various nervous affections, in the troubles of the menopause, in nervous insomnia, pruritus vulvæ and general pruritus, hemorrhoids, etc., and in one case of protracted galactorrhœa, and thinks it would be advantageous in pregnancy nephritis or neuroses, but has had little opportunity to test the latter. In case of constipation or flatulence the gas-producing substances must be excluded, but a careful selection will render the vegetarian diet very useful under these circumstances. Obese patients lost flesh, but others did not, as a rule, and none exhibited any loss of strength. He refers to the endurance of the Japanese, who eat little meat, as also the Trappist monks. He thinks that time will yet show that many obstinate nervous affections may be cured by abstention from meat."

